

# TRANSIT TRANSITION

## U.S. 13 to shift in Odessa

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ODESSA — Traffic along U.S. 13 will be slowed and redirected in coming weeks, as workers begin construction on the final segment of Del. 1.

Although the traffic snarl is only projected to last three days while the roads are redirected, traffic patterns will remain altered for the following year, said David Duke, project resident for the Department of Transportation.

"The real changes are to southbound U.S. 13," he said. "There will be hardships during the days of the switch, but it is necessary to complete (Del.) 1."

Motorists traveling south on Del. 1 currently merge onto U.S. 13 after Appoquinimink River bridge. Once the traffic flow changes, they will veer slightly east along a "slip road" onto a parallel, "relocated" U.S. 13. Mr. Duke said.

The old segment of U.S. 13 will be converted into Harris Road, a service road for local traffic.

The three-day switch is slated to take place during the week of April 29, weather permitting, Mr. Duke said.

"We're not sure which days we will do this," he said. "We will look for a window of weather before deciding to go."

He added that DelDOT would advise the public of the pending traffic changes through media notifications and signs along the road.

During the switch, several changes will occur in the two-mile stretch just south of Odessa:



Submitted photo, Delaware Department of Transportation

A look at traffic pattern changes to be made on Del. 1 and U.S. 13 south of Odessa the week of April 29. The photo looks south from just south of Odessa.

Del. 1 southbound (1) below the Appoquinimink River bridge will be reduced to one lane until Noxontown Road.

Motorists traveling south on Del. 1 currently exit the expressway after the Appoquinimink River bridge onto U.S. 13 (2a). After the traffic flow changes later this month, traffic will veer onto a parallel, "relocated" U.S. 13 (2b).

Traffic traveling south on U.S. 13 will be directed onto Harris Road (3a), which empties onto U.S. 13 again at Pine Tree Corner Road (3b), two miles south.

Vehicles coming from Fieldsboro and Old State roads (4) and Sycamore Farms must go north to Harris Road to gain access to U.S. 13 southbound.

The old segment of U.S. 13 (5) will be converted into Harris Road, a service road for local traffic.

■ Vehicles traveling south on U.S. 13 will be directed onto Del. 1 southbound at Del. 299, except for local traffic.

■ Traffic continuing south on U.S. 13 will be directed onto Harris Road, which empties onto U.S. 13 again at Pine Tree Corner Road.

■ Vehicles coming from Fieldsboro and Old State roads and Sycamore Farms must go north to Harris Road to gain access to U.S. 13 southbound.

■ Del. 1 southbound below the Appoquinimink River bridge will be reduced to one lane until Noxontown Road.

"This is a pretty major traffic switch," Mr. Duke said. "(However,) the northbound lanes of (U.S.) 13 and (Del.) 1 will not be affected by the switch."

DelDOT spokeswoman Michele Ackles said the department is recommending that motorists use alternate routes such as Del. 9 or Del. 71 to bypass the temporary traffic tie-up during those three days.

"Local access will be maintained," she said. "Businesses along that stretch will still be reachable for customers."

Mr. Duke said the diversion of southbound U.S. 13 traffic onto Harris Road or Del. 1 at Del. 299 would continue about a year, when the entire eight-mile segment from south of Odessa to north Smyrna is scheduled for completion.